

To the Right Honourable the Supreme Authority of the  
Nation, the Commons of ENGLAND, assem-  
bled in PARLIAMENT. (268)

The humble Petition of many poore distressed Widdows, whose Husbands  
have lost their lives and estates in the present service of the Parliament.

Sheweth :



Hat for many of us, our extreame wants doe far exceede our cries and complaints; our humble prayer is, that you would be pleased to settle by Act of this present Parliament that Renowned Ordinance that beares date the 27 of October, 1642. Wherein is promised sufficient provision for the livelihood of their Wives and Children that should loose their lives in the service of Parliament: Our great Request is, that your Honours would crowne this good worke once more by an Act from your Honours, that all the Nation may evidently know that you are not unmindfull of us who have suffered much misery for your safeties. Wee beseech you in this one Act to grant us this, that in case the Lord should change our condition either by marriage or death, that our Children whose Fathers lost their lives in the service, may be provided for, and that wee and our Children may have such allowance as may keepe us from utter perishing, as some at this time doe for want of bread and education. Wee pray that you would not deny us this, knowing it is no more then your owne ingagement to their deceased Fathers, who thought not all their injoyments too deare to sacrifice for your peace and safety, in whom now lies all our earthly hopes of relief in this our sad condition; for beside your Honours wee have none to pity us, or will seeke to helpe us, but rather augment our griefe with scorne and rebrech. Also wee beseech you that those men that have, or shall by Providence be married, and thereby made unable to provide for themselves or Families, that they may have such allowance that may keep them from begging or starving, which if the Lord shall bring our heart to the performance heereof: Wee pray if at any time there shall be found any soldier or Widdow begging heereafter, they may be in danger of losing their Pensions: if it brings a cankerd staine upon your Honours, that those that have beene serviceable to you in the utmost of their powers, should be constreyned to begge their bread in the streets: wee intreat also that our faithfull Treasurers in whom we hope resteth the spirit of Christ, may have the disposing of all Payments or guift money that is in your powers, that shall be paynted for Widdows, they being the best able to know who is the most wanting and deserving of it; and that all under paymasters which belong to them may continue, there being nothing of truth layd to their charge to the contrary; and that there may be never given from you to our Treasurers to punish such that shall abuse those Widdows that labour to live in the feare of the Lord: For our abuse is a great addition to our misery, that wee whose Husbands went forth faithfully, and thereby wee and our Children greatly impoverished, should not be looked upon by you with an eye of preservation, according to your former ingagement; but now let the conclusion of all your former promises be the true performance thereof, which will helpe you to finish your course with joy, and give you enlargement among all them that are sanctified; for which the prayers of your true servants shall not be wanting for your injoyment therein:

And your Petitioners shall ever pray &c.

This Petition was delivered about a fortnight since, and the Petitioners humbly waiting with patience, and receiving no Answer, occasioned the printing thereof.